

"Betrayal" — A Review

BETRAYAL — A Reconstruction of Certain Clandestine Events from the Bay of Pigs to the Assassination of President Kennedy

by Robert D. Morrow, published by Henry Regnery & Co., Chicago, 1976, 235 pp.

Reviewed by David Williams

Assassination Information Bureau

63 Inman St.

Cambridge, MA 02139

In recent weeks, this book has been added to the ranks of JFK assassination literature. The author, Robert D. Morrow, is an electronics expert who worked for a CIA-sponsored firm (Comcor) and participated in several missions surrounding the CIA's Cuban operations of the early 1960s.

An Important Book

Morrow begins his book by recounting a mission he undertook on April 17, 1961 (the day of the infamous Bay of Pigs invasion). Morrow's task was to fly into Cuba at low altitudes to check out unusual pulse transmissions that were suspected of being part of guidance systems for drone aircraft. The pilot hired by the CIA to carry out the mission with Morrow was David Ferrie.

Ferrie, a familiar name to those acquainted with former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's case, is the first of many well-known names and figures that appear in Morrow's intriguing account. As the story unfolds, there is a strikingly close resemblance between Morrow's conspirators and those named by Jim Garrison. But if we have learned anything from the years of frustration and disappointment in trying to conclusively establish the conspiracy, it is that we must be cautious lest we too quickly embrace Morrow's account as a vindication of Garrison.

This is an important book, wherever its final credibility may lie. The familiar names — Shaw, Ferrie, Bannister, Ruby, and others — are all there. Other persons are given aliases, often serving as merely a thin veil over their identities, obvious to a researcher. But the question remains, can Morrow's case be substantiated?

The Lack of First-Hand Information

One problem with Morrow's reconstruction is that it derives in large part from information given to him by his CIA superiors, General Charles Cabell and Ed Kendricks (alias), both of whom are now deceased. There are several episodes that reflect Morrow's lack of first-hand knowledge and underscore the need for further documentation.

The core of Morrow's tale, and undoubtedly the most controversial aspect of his work, is the action that gave birth to the book's title — *Betrayal*. By Morrow's account, Kennedy was aware as much as 18 months prior to the Cuban missile crisis that there were missiles in Cuba, and he says that JFK sat on the information for political purposes. The right-wing, anti-Castro people and their allies in the CIA saw this as treachery.

JFK is portrayed as being in deep conflict with the CIA, an agency he mistrusted, and Kennedy took action to undermine the CIA's influence. There is ample historical basis for such an assertion, but Morrow tends to exaggerate the specific instances that embodied the rift. For example, Morrow maintains that the date of the Bay of Pigs was moved up to create another diversion for his escapade with Ferrie of that same day, and that when Kennedy was informed of this, he ordered the Navy to withhold the fighter support he had previously pledged. The more likely explanation is that the operation's cover had been so severely blown that Kennedy didn't want to risk further international embarrassment, and thus withheld the air support. Morrow's version inflates his own self-importance.

Throughout the Kennedy administration there existed a running battle with the right wing on the questions of when the missiles arrived in Cuba; when they became operational; and whether they were all removed after the October 1962 crisis. Morrow's reconstruction gives substantial weight to those in the right wing who argued that Kennedy was holding out and was actively undermining the efforts of the CIA and its cohorts in the Cuban underground to overthrow Castro. Indeed, the CIA did act without presidential approval and knowledge to carry out its own chosen objectives — to undermine and, if possible, to overthrow Castro.

Morrow was also involved in a counterfeiting scheme that was designed to wreak havoc in the Cuban economy. The Kennedy brothers are pictured as having put a stop to that.

Was Kennedy a "Traitor"?

In trying to make the case that Kennedy was indeed a "traitor" (by rightist definitions), Morrow provides a heretofore hidden reason for Kennedy's removal. It will require substantial documentation and important first-hand testimony before Kennedy's so-called betrayal can be accepted.

In a recent interview with me, Morrow said that Kennedy's actions around the missiles should be less severely judged, because Morrow now believes that it could be shown that Nixon, in the latter years of the Eisenhower administration, may also have known. When asked about the significance of Nixon's knowledge, Morrow said he thought he was "on to something bigger than the assassination." He was unable or unwilling to elaborate.

Hope of Sparking Congressional Action

There are countless points, some merely minor nuances, in Morrow's account that one can take issue
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4. the Secret Service, and
5. the CIA.

Both before and after the murder, this cabal had control high enough in the councils of government so as to be able to influence the travel plans of:

1. the president,
2. the vice president,
3. a presidential candidate, Richard M. Nixon, and
4. seven members of the Kennedy cabinet.

Together these constitute a most important fact. Many would have us believe that, if there was a conspiracy, it was masterminded by Castro, or by the Russians, or by some other Communist power. Such a thesis is sheer idiocy. Putting forward such a thesis is most likely the work of the prime conspiracy itself to obfuscate and to further disguise its complicity. Castro, Khrushchev, or any other outsider would have been utterly unable to arrange all the inside activities that were arranged beforehand — such as send six members of the Cabinet out to fly over the empty waters of the Pacific.

This cabal was powerful enough:

1. to have orders issued to the Army,
2. to stop the Secret Service from protecting Kennedy in Dallas in the normal, rule-book way,
3. to mount a massive campaign to control the media during and after the assassination,
4. to have Jack Ruby kill Oswald, and
5. to transfer jurisdiction, unlawfully, over Kennedy's murder from Texas to Washington, D. C., and
6. to effectively control the outcome of the Warren Commission review by controlling what the Warren Commission individuals saw and heard.

19. Over 50 Strange Deaths of Witnesses

And consider the rest of the coverup. As soon as JFK was dead, they began an even larger campaign to cover up that crime forever. Penn Jones, the tenacious editor of the Midlothian, Texas Mirror, has devoted his life since 1963 to "researching the hell out of" this conspiracy. He has a list of some eighty-five people who, because they knew too much or came too close, have died sudden and unnatural deaths since the JFK murder. It can be said that because Texas has not stepped forward to perform its legal responsibilities the lives of many innocent people have been and continue to be in jeopardy from the same hired guns which slew the President in a Dallas street.

This great cabal saw to it that Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was in the Kennedy procession. They saw to it that he heard those hired guns, that he saw Kennedy die and that he had to live through that nightmare of the trip back to Washington on Air Force One. From that day on, LBJ never again was

that self-confident, swashbuckling, free-wheeling Texan of his Senate days. Before he died, LBJ told his old friend Tom Janos that he knew Oswald had not killed JFK by himself.

Now think that statement over! The President of the United States had known that a conspiracy existed; he knew the Warren Commission which he established was wrong in its verdict; and he had been unable to do a thing about it. Perhaps he told Janos because he dared not die with that secret on his soul!

20. Time to Tear Off the Cover

The American public is now ready to have the cloak torn off from the lies about the Kennedy murder and the coverup which has grown to an even greater crime.

But the American public so far has not shown the guts to face the fact of the massive conspiracy that arranged and bought that murder and which to this day perpetuates the coverup of the murder. ☐

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Dr. Malcom Perry testified that "in the part of the neck below the Adam's apple was a small, roughly circular wound of perhaps 5 mm. in diameter from which blood was exuding slowly." (3H368)

Dr. Kemp Clark noted in his report "two external wounds, one in the lower third of the anterior neck." (R483)

Dr. Carrico testified before the Warren Commission that "there was a small wound 5- to 8-mm. in size, located in the lower third of the neck, below the thyroid cartilage, the Adams apple."

When asked by Mr. Dulles to show where the wound was, he answered, "Just about where your tie would be."

Thus the Dallas doctors positioned the wound below the clothing line, and Dr. Carrico notes in Weisberg's book that it was "unlikely" that the slits in the President's shirt were made by the nurses. ?

Evidence of the Zapruder Film

2. People who study the Zapruder film are only able to pinpoint the fatal head shot at Z303. Cutler does not explain where the "two" bullets which entered Kennedy's neck are. He implies that they drifted to Kennedy's lower body below the knees as the rest of the body was covered by X-rays. This seems to be sheer speculation at best. It is highly doubtful that both bullets would turn up in a place too far from the original wounds.

It is clear that when all the evidence is considered, the back/throat wound of Kennedy is a through-and-through wound. Once this is admitted, Forman's hypothesis becomes the only working, rational explanation of the first shot which hit Kennedy. ☐

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with. But these details will be inconsequential if Morrow's overall account does not hold up under the scrutiny that it will likely receive. Meanwhile, Morrow is consulting with some congressional aides in hope of sparking some action in the presently immobilized House of Representatives. ☐